

NUCLEAR CLAIMS TRIBUNAL

REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

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August 13, 1997

Her Excellency Joan M. Plaisted
Ambassador of the United States
to the Republic of the Marshall Islands
Embassy of the United States
Majuro

Dear Ambassador Plaisted:

Thank you for your letter of July 31 advising as to the general contents of the latest boxes of nuclear testing program documents delivered to the Marshall Islands Government. In fact, one of those boxes is presently under review by Tribunal staff in an effort to better understand the effects of the program.

As you noted in your letter, there has been a close working relationship between us in the search for information of special interest to the Tribunal and I am especially appreciative of the efforts which you have personally devoted in this regard. I am also pleased to receive your assurances that the search for additional documents will continue.

In this latter regard, may I respectfully request your further assistance in obtaining copies of any and all documents relating to the measurement and distribution of radioactive debris and fallout resulting from Operation Redwing in 1956 and Operation Hardtack I in 1958? The Tribunal found the January 1955 report on Radioactive Debris from Operation Castle, declassified in 1994, to be of immense value in confirming that fallout from the 1954 series affected virtually every atoll in the Marshall Islands and we are most interested in learning more about the radiation intensities created by the subsequent series.

Once again, I applaud you and your Government for its ongoing openness initiative in revealing some of the many deep dark secrets that most other nations would not allow to see the light of day.

Sincerely,


Oscar de Brum
Chairman

Copy to Hon. Phillip Muller, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Republic of the Marshall Islands

PRIORITY

UNCLASSIFIED

INCOMING

EAP/L CARDS CENTER

PAGE 01 MAJURO 00458 020139Z 04549Z 0040014
ACTION: ANP (04)

INFO: EAP (04) P (01) EP (07)
----- 02/0037Z 41 DOK TOTAL COPIES: 011
ACT ON EAP-00

INFO LOC-00 A D-02 AMAD-01 C/AE-03 OAS-03 J N-00 D0EE-22
EB-00 EC-01 UTED-00 H4S-01 SSA-01 TEDE-00 INR-00
IO-00 AOS-02 NSAE 00 OES-01 OIC-02 DRL-09 /017W
-----DFEST0 210201Z /38

P 021029Z SEP 97
FM AMEMBASSY MAJURO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0000

UNCLAS MAJURO 0458

FOR EAP/ANP, PLEASE PASS TO DOE (DAS SELIGMAN, TOM BELL)

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: TB'D, SCOD, RM
SUBJECT: RMI REQUEST FOR DECLASSIFIED DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY DOCUMENTS: OPERATIONS REDWING AND HARDTACK :

1. AMBASSADOR RECEIVED A REQUEST, DATED AUGUST 13, FROM

REPUBLIC OF MARSHALL ISLANDS (RMI) NUCLEAR CLAIMS TRIBUNAL
(NCT) CHAIRMAN, JUDGE OSCAR DEBRUM, IN HIS LETTER, WHICH
REQUESTS DOCUMENTS CONCERNING OPERATIONS REDWING AND HARDTACK.
DEBRUM EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR USDO'S OPENNESS INITIATIVE
AND FOR PREVIOUS BOXES OF DOCUMENTS RELEASED BY DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY (DOE). DEBRUM COPIED HIS LETTER TO RMI FOREIGN MINISTER
PHILLIP MULLER. PORTION OF LETTER WITH TEXT OF SPECIFIC
REQUEST FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT

"MAY I RESPECTFULLY REQUEST YOUR FURTHER ASSISTANCE IN
OBTAINING COPIES OF ANY AND ALL DOCUMENT RELATING TO THE
MEASUREMENT AND DISTRIBUTION OF RADIOACTIVE DEBRIS AND
FALLOUT RESULTING FROM OPERATION REDWING IN 1956 AND
OPERATION HARDTACK I IN 1958? THE TRIBUNAL FOUND THE JANUARY
1955 REPORT ON RADIOACTIVE DEBRIS FROM OPERATION CASTLE,
DECLASSIFIED IN 1994, TO BE OF IMMENSE VALUE IN CONFIRMING THAT
FALLOUT FROM THE 1954 SERIES AFFECTED VIRTUALLY EVERY ATOLL IN
THE MARSHALL ISLANDS AND WE ARE MOST INTERESTED IN LEARNING
MORE ABOUT THE RADIATION INTENSITIES CREATED BY THE
SUBSEQUENT SERIES.

END TEXT

2. PENDING INDICATION FROM DOE THAT IT WILL PURSUE THIS
REQUEST AND FOR YOUR INFORMATION, AMBASSADOR HAS PROVIDED AN
INTERIM RESPONSE TO DEBRUM, AS FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT

DEAR CHAIRMAN DEBRUM:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND WORDS APPLAUDING MY GOVERNMENT'S
ONGOING OPENNESS INITIATIVE. I HAVE CABLED YOUR LETTER
REQUESTING INFORMATION CONCERNING OPERATIONS REDWING AND
HARDTACK TO DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY PAUL SELIGMAN,
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (DOE), AND OTHERS IN WASHINGTON.

ON RECEIVING YOUR LETTER, WE DID A SEARCH ON OUR INTERNET AT
THE EMBASSY. WE RECOVERED A LISTING OF SEVERAL HUNDRED
DOCUMENTS RELATING TO HARDTACK ALONE, SOME OF WHICH HAVE BEEN
RECENTLY DECLASSIFIED OR MADE AVAILABLE. WHILE YOU ARE WAITING

MAJURO 00458 020139Z 04549Z 0040014
FOR DOE TO RESPOND TO THIS LATEST REQUEST, PERHAPS YOU OR THE
RMI EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON MAY OBTAIN DOCUMENTS WHICH APPEAR
PERTINENT TO YOU, IF THEY HAVE NOT ALREADY BEEN PROVIDED,
DIRECTLY FROM THE DOCUMENT CENTERS. CONTACT ADDRESSES AND
NUMBERS OF THE VARIOUS REPOSITORIES WHICH CONTAIN THE DOCUMENTS
ARE LISTED ON DOE'S OPENNET. THE SITE MAY BE ACCESSED THROUGH
THE DOE HOME PAGE.

PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF I MAY BE OF FURTHER ASSISTANCE.

SINCERELY, /S/ AMBASSADOR

CC: MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE PHILLIP MULLER

END TEXT

3. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE FORWARD REQUEST TO DOE'S SELIGMAN
AND BELL, AS PER CAPTION LINE, AND FOLLOW UP AS NECESSARY.
PLEASE PROVIDE EMBASSY WITH AN INTERIM RESPONSE FOR FORWARDING
TO RMI WITHIN THIRTY DAYS. ASSISTANCE APPRECIATED.

PLAISTED

8
9/8
ANP - How does it
look regarding our
ability to respond
positively?
Quack

UNCLASSIFIED